

## REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove the objectionable material therein. Claims 17 to 22 remain active in this application.

Claims 17 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbott (U.S. 6,245,448) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. 5,994,757) further in view of Grunwald et al (U.S. 3,819,497). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Abbott is copending with the subject application which has an effective filing date of March 19, 1999 based upon parent application Serial No. 09/525,105, filed March 14, 2000 which claims priority from provisional application Serial No. 60/125,304, filed March 19, 1999. and has a common assignee. Accordingly, in view of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Abbott is not available as a reference in this application.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. in view of Grunwald et al. .The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Huang et al. with Grunwald et al. is improper since there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the references. The invention herein as well as the Huang et al. patent relate to the manufacture of leadframes. Grunwald et al. has nothing whatsoever to do with leadframes. It follows that the only suggestion to combine the references is derived from the subject application. The combination is therefore based upon hindsight and improper.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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